

BACKGROUND ON DROPOUT AND RETENTION RATES

Section 8 of the State School Aid Act mandates that pupil dropout rates be reported to the legislature each year. The Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) performs calculations based upon valid data submitted via the Pupil Headcount Report (IM-4203). CEPI is also required to provide statistical information to the U.S. Department of Education regarding various demographic factors, based on the data submitted via IM-4203.

The Michigan Department of Education did not collect dropout information for the 1986-87, 1987-88, and 1988-89 school years. During the 1989-90 school year, the Pupil Headcount Report form (IM-4203) was created. Since that year, the dropout rate has been calculated using the same formula which was initially developed by a group of professional research consultants within the Michigan Department of Education as well as field agencies such as LEAs and ISDs. In general terms, the dropout rate measures the percentage of students who did not return to school from the previous school year (or who are unaccounted for).

This document details the calculation of retention, dropout and graduation rates for the 2000-2001 school year.

DETERMINING DROPOUT AND GRADUATION RATES

Computations based on data provided by Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Public School Academies (PSAs) through the Pupil Headcount Report (IM-4203)

DROPOUT/GRADUATION/RETENTION RATES FOR THE 2000-2001 SCHOOL YEAR

Class of---	2004	2003	2002	2001	TOTALS
1. Enrollment---Fall Count Day, 2000	280	275	273	259	1087
2. Transfer Information (data over 12 months)					
a. [In from] Other Districts (+)	10	5	12	3	30+
b. [Within] Same District (+)	0	0	1	0	1+
c. [Out to] Other Districts (-)	5	7	8	2	22-
d. [Within] Same District (-)	0	1	0	0	1-
e. To Alternative (-)	0	0	0	2	2-
3. Retained in Grade (Not Promoted)					
a. For the 2000-2001 School Year (-)	0	2	0	2	4-
b. For the 2001-2002 School Year (+)	2	0	2	0	4+
4. ADJUSTED---Fall Count, 2001	287	270	280	256	1093
5. ACTUAL---Fall Count, 2001	283	269	270		
6. Graduates---Class of 2001				251	1073
7. Students Not Accounted For (Dropouts)*	4	1	10	5	20
8. 2001 Retention Rate (%)**	98.61	99.63	96.43	98.05	98.17
9. 2001 Dropout Rate (%)*	1.39	0.37	3.57	1.95	1.83

10. **Estimated Graduation Rate (%)****

4-year: 92.89% (over a four year period)

HOW EACH LINE ABOVE IS DERIVED:

- LINE 1 (PRIOR) Enrollment---brought forward from Fall Count Day, 2000 (September 27, 2000)
- LINE 2 (a-e) Transfer data---covering the time period between 9/27/2000 and 9/25/2001
- LINE 3 (a) RETAINED IN GRADE (not promoted)
- LINE 3 (b) **Calculated (computer generated number)**
- LINE 4 ADJUSTED Enrollment---**Calculated (computer generated number)**
- LINE 5 ACTUAL (current) Enrollment---from Fall Count Day, 2001 (September 26, 2001)
- LINE 6 GRADUATES---covering students graduating between 9/27/2000 and 9/25/2001
- LINE 7 **Calculated (computer generated number)** *Negative #'s are considered invalid.
- LINE 8 **Calculated (computer generated number)** ** #'s greater than 100% are invalid.
- LINE 9 **Calculated (computer generated number)** *Negative #'s are considered invalid.
- LINE 10 **Calculated (computer generated number)** ** #'s greater than 100% are invalid.

EXPLANATION OF EACH LINE from Page 1

LINE 1 Enrollment (Headcount) Fall Count Day, 2000

This data is the actual headcount enrollment reported on the 2000 Fall Count Day (September 27, 2000) for the class of 2004 (as 9th graders), class of 2003 (as 10th graders), class of 2002 (as 11th graders), and the class of 2001 (as 12th graders).

LINE 2a-e *All transfer information covers the period between September 27, 2000, and September 25, 2001.*

LINE 2a Transfers In---From Other Districts

These numbers should reflect all students who entered the district from another school district. "Other" school districts may be other public school districts, parochial/private schools, home schools or charter schools (public school academies). Even if the parochial/private, or charter school is in the same district as the one submitting the headcount/transfer data, these schools are considered to be their own district.

LINE 2b Transfers In---Within Same District

The numbers entered in this line should reflect the NEW grade level for any student within the district who had a grade level change because of a re-evaluation of credits at midyear. Also, if there is more than one high school in the district, the numbers entered here would indicate students' movements between high schools.

LINE 2c Transfers Out---To Other Districts

These numbers should indicate how many students transferred out to other districts. The definition of "other" school districts is detailed in the Line 2a section above.

LINE 2d Transfer Out---Within Same District

The numbers entered in this line should reflect the OLD grade level that had been a student's previous grade level due to a midyear re-evaluation of credits. NOTE: The numbers entered in rows 2b and 2d should balance---the number of students recorded transferring out of any grade(s) should match the number of students transferring into another grade (or grades). As in the Line 2b directions above, the numbers would reflect the students who transferred between high schools (only applicable if a district has more than one high school).

LINE 2e Transfer Out---To Alternative Program

These figures should reflect the number of students who left the district to attend an Alternative Education program. An important consideration is that if a student's records left the district, that student should be as a "transfer out" in this category. If a student transfers to an alternative program offered in his/her own district and the records stay within the district, this student **should not** be counted as a transfer out to an alternative program.

EXPLANATION OF EACH LINE (Continued)

LINE 3a Retained in Grade---Not Promoted (Minus)

These numbers should reflect how many students (if any) within the district who did not attain enough credits to be promoted with their class to the next grade level. NOTE: As opposed to the midyear re-evaluation of credits, the retention of students is done at the end of a regular school year.

LINE 3b Retained in Grade---Not Promoted (Plus)

These figures should reflect the number of students within the district who did not earn enough credits to be promoted to the next grade level and therefore were placed into a NEW graduation year. **These numbers are computer generated and are based on data entered on Line 3a.**

LINE 4 Adjusted Enrollment

The actual headcount enrollment reported on the Fall Count Date, 2000 is adjusted based upon all of the transfer and retained data entered above. **This Adjusted Enrollment represents the expected enrollment on the 2001 Fall Count Date (September 26, 2001).**

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
Line 1.	280	275	273	259	1087
Line 2a. (+)	10	5	12	3	30+
	290	280	285	262	1117
Line 2b. (+)	0	0	1	0	1+
	290	280	286	262	1118
Line 2c. (-)	5	7	8	2	22-
	285	273	278	260	1096
Line 2d. (-)	0	1	0	0	1-
	285	272	278	260	1095
Line 2e. (-)	0	0	0	2	2-
	285	272	278	258	1093
Line 3a. (-)	0	2	0	2	4-
	285	270	278	256	1089
Line 3b. (+)	2	0	2	0	4+
Line 4.	287	270	280	256	1093

EXPLANATION OF EACH LINE (Continued)

LINE 5 Actual Headcount Enrollment

This data is the actual enrollment reported for Fall Count Day, 2001 for the class of 2004 (grade 10), class of 2003 (grade 11), and the class of 2002 (grade 12).

LINE 6 Graduates

These numbers reflect how many students in the Class of 2001 graduated and traditionally contains those students who graduated at the end of the school year. In fact, any student who received a diploma between September 27, 2000 and September 25, 2001 should be included on this line under the 2001 column heading.

LINE 7 Unaccounted for Students (Dropouts)

4. ADJUSTED---(from grid on page 3)	287	270	280	256	1093
5. ACTUAL---Fall Count Day, 2001	283	269	270		
6. Graduates				251	1073
7. Unaccounted for Students (Dropouts)	4	1	10	5	20

For the purposes of this report, a Dropout is a student who cannot be accounted for:

The retention rate is calculated for students who can be accounted for. Thus, students who are unaccounted for are considered to be dropouts. In general, no request for the student's records will suffice as proof of a student's unaccountability. Pupils who transfer to (and from) other public school districts, home schools, private/parochial schools or charter schools (PSAs) are not counted as dropouts. At this time, CEPI does not ask for the number of unaccounted for students (dropouts) but does calculate a figure that is derived from transfer (other data) provided by the district.

HOW RETENTION, DROPOUT AND GRADUATION RATES ARE CALCULATED (Page 1, Lines 8, 9 and 10)

Calculation of a Retention Rate = Actual (divided by) Adjusted (times) 100

Calculation of a Dropout Rate = 100% (minus) the Retention Rate

Calculation of an (Estimated) 4-year graduation rate indicates, with no change in future retention rates, the percentage of 9th grade students who will complete their senior year of school, and graduate. It is computed by multiplying the individual class retention rates (see line 8 on page 1) together. That is: (.9861 X .9963 X .9643 X .9805) X 100 = 92.89%.